

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) In a computer system that includes items stored in at least one volume, the volume being divided into at least one non-overlapping zone, each item residing in a non-overlapping zone from among the at least one non-overlapping zone, each non-overlapping zone having one or more principals with administrative rights, a method of delegating administrative rights to other principals for first items included in a main non-overlapping zone included in the at least one non-overlapping zone, comprising:

an act of identifying the first items and other items in the-a main non-overlapping zone within a volume comprising a plurality of non-overlapping zones;

an act of splitting the main non-overlapping zone into a first non-overlapping zone and a remaining non-overlapping main zone such that the first non-overlapping zone and the remaining non-overlapping main zones do not overlap with any of the plurality of other non-overlapping zones included in the volume, the one or more main principals retaining administrative rights for the first non-overlapping zone and the remaining main non-overlapping zone, the first non-overlapping zone including the first items and the remaining main non-overlapping zone including that only the otherportion of items from in the main non-overlapping zone not included in the first items, and wherein said splitting is restricted in such a way as to prevent overlapping between zones and such that none of the first items and other items from the main non-overlapping zone are shared when the main non-overlapping zone is split; and

an act of specifying that one or more first principals also have administrative rights to the first items.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, specifying the one or more first principals is performed by the one or more main principals;

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising the act of labeling the

first items with a zone enumeration corresponding to the first non-overlapping zone.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24, the administrative rights being security rights.
28. (Original) The method of claim 24, the administrative rights being auditing rights.
29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising the act of specifying security rules for the first non-overlapping zone after the act of splitting.
30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 comprising the act of specifying security rules for the first non-overlapping zone by defaulting security rules that were from the main non-overlapping zone prior to the act of splitting.
31. (Currently amended) A method for creating a non-overlapping zone from the first non-overlapping zone and the remaining main non-overlapping zone recited in claim 24 comprising an act of re-combining the first non-overlapping zone and the remaining main non-overlapping zone.
32. (Currently amended) A method for creating a non-overlapping zone from the first non-overlapping zone recited in claim 24 and a subsequent remaining main non-overlapping zone, the subsequent remaining non-overlapping zone formed from splitting the remaining main non-overlapping zone, wherein the administrative principals of the subsequent remaining main non-overlapping zone are the administrative principals in the main non-overlapping zone, comprising an act of re-combining the first non-overlapping zone and the subsequent remaining main non-overlapping zone.
33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system that includes items stored in at least one volume, the volume being divided into at least one non-overlapping zone, each item residing in a non overlapping zone from among the at least one non-overlapping zone, each non overlapping zone having one or more principals with administrative rights, the computer program product for implementing a method of delegating administrative rights to other principals for first items included in a main non overlapping zone included in the at least one non-overlapping zone, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable storage media that store having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the method recited in claim 24.

following::

— identify the first items in the main non overlapping zone;
— split the main non overlapping zone into a first non overlapping zone and a remaining main non overlapping zone such that the zones do not overlap with any other zones included in the volume, the one or more main principals retaining administrative rights for the first non overlapping zone and the remaining main non overlapping zone, the first non overlapping zone including the first items and the remaining main non overlapping zone including that portion of items in the main non overlapping zone not included in the first items; and

specify that one or more first principals also have administrative rights to the first items.

35. (Cancelled)